

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A retainer for use in securing items within a vehicle comprising:

a lower mounting base having a mounting base upper surface and a mounting base lower surface and defining a central opening, the lower mounting base including at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the mounting base upper surface, a release member extending radially outward from the central opening, and a retainer leg extending outwardly from the mounting base lower surface, and

an upper component releasably mountable to the lower mounting base, the upper component having an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper component including at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the lower surface of the upper component for slidable engagement with the at least one rail of the lower mounting base, a central rib extending outwardly from and across the lower surface of the upper component for engagement with the release member, the release member having a fixed end and a free end, the free end being movable to permit the slidable release of the upper component from the lower mounting base, such that when released, the lower surface of the upper component is caused to slide across the mounting base upper surface of the lower mounting base, and an item-mounting member extending outwardly from the upper surface of the upper component for mounting items to the retainer.

2. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 1, wherein the retainer leg further includes opposing substrate-engaging surfaces.

3. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the upper component further includes a pair of side ribs extending outwardly from and across the upper component lower surface, the pair of side ribs are aligned substantially parallel with the central rib.

4. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 3, wherein the item-mounting member is a ring.

5. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the retainer leg further includes at least one leg finger that facilitates the insertion and removal of the lower mounting base within an opening in a substrate.

6. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the at least one leg finger extends through the central opening in the lower mounting base.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one rail of the upper component includes a rail groove.

9. (Original) The retainer as set forth in claim 8, wherein the at least one rail of the lower mounting base includes a rail rib for engagement with the rail groove.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A retainer assembly comprising:

a base component including a retainer leg extending outwardly from the base component for removably anchoring the base component to a substrate, the retainer leg including at least one substrate-engaging member, the base component also including a release member, and

an upper component including an item-receiving member and a component engaging member for operatively coupling the upper component to the base component, such that the upper component is removably mountable to the base component so as to be completely separable therefrom.

17. (Original) The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the upper component further includes a rib for operatively engaging the release member.

18. (Original) The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the base component further includes a component engaging member for operatively coupling the base component to the upper component.

19. (Original) The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 18, wherein the component engaging member is a rail.

20. (Original) The retainer assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the base component includes an opening, the retainer leg defining at least one leg finger extending through the opening for selectively removing the base component from the substrate.

21. (New) A retainer comprising:

a first mounting member having a first body including a first surface and a second surface, at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the first surface, a release member extending from the first body, the release member including a free end and an end secured to the body that permits pivotable movement of the release member, and a retainer leg extending outwardly from the second surface for attaching the first mounting member to a mating object; and

a second mounting member having a second body including a third surface and a fourth surface, at least one rail extending outwardly from and across the third surface, a rib extending outwardly from and across the third surface, and an item mounting member extending outwardly from the fourth surface for attaching items to the second mounting member, wherein the second mounting member is removably mountable to the first mounting member, such that to mount the second mounting member to the first mounting member, the second mounting member is caused to slide over the first mounting member by moving the release member of the first mounting member at its free end in a first direction until there is suitable clearance for the rib of the second mounting member to pass by the release member, and by further sliding the second mounting member over the first mounting member in such a manner that the at least one rail of the second mounting member slidably engages the at least one rail of the first mounting member, the second mounting member being slid over the first mounting member until such time as the release member passes the rib of the second mounting member at which point the release member is moved in a second direction so as to be in alignment with the rib thereby locking the second mounting member to the first mounting member, and such that to unmount the second mounting member from the first mounting member, the release member is moved out of alignment with the rib, thereby allowing the second mounting member to be slidably removed from the first mounting member.

22. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the free end of the release member includes a shoulder that is adapted to align with the rib of the second mounting member when the second mounting member is locked to the first mounting member.

23. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the first directional movement of the release member is substantially parallel with the first surface of the first mounting member, and the second directional movement of the release member is in a substantially opposite direction to the first direction.

24. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the first mounting member includes a first peripheral side wall extending from the first surface and partially around the first body thereby defining first ends, and wherein the second mounting member includes a second peripheral side wall extending from the third surface and partially around the second body thereby defining second ends, such that the first ends of the first mounting member engage the second ends of the second mounting member upon the slidable insertion of the second mounting member onto the first mounting member.

25. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the second mounting member includes at least one side rib extending outwardly from and across the third surface, such that when the second mounting member is mounted to the first mounting member, the at least one side rib of the second mounting member is adapted to contact the at least one rail of the first mounting member to prevent rotation of the second mounting member relative to the first mounting member to further secure the second mounting member onto the first mounting member.

26. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the at least one rail of the first mounting member includes two rails each having an "L" shaped cross-section, and wherein the at least one rail of the second mounting member includes two rails each having an "L" shaped cross-section, such that the rails of the second mounting member interlock with the rails of the first mounting member when the second mounting member is mounted to the first mounting member.

27. (New) The retainer as set forth in claim 21, wherein the second peripheral side wall includes an opening through which extends the release member for permitting selective removal of the second mounting member from the first mounting member.